

FINAL PROJECT REPORT

Submitted to CRS/USAID on Sept. 19, 2003

A. Project Profile

1. Project Title: **Farmers Information Services**
2. **Project Number:** 5296-6950029 (USAID Award No. 617-G-00-02-00013-00)
3. **Direct Participants Reached:** Gulu, Pader, Lira and Apac Districts, Over 500,000 people.
4. **Starting Date:** September 27th 2002
End Date: June 30th 2003
5. **Funding:**
 - a. *Approved Project Budget:* \$ 42, 560 (Ushs 76,863,845)
 - b. *Amount Expended as of June 30, 2003:* Ushs 72,258,622
 - c. *Balance:* Ushs 4,605,223

B. **Progress Against Project Objective**

The objective of this project was to support the agricultural production and food security of over 500,000 displaced and war affected farm families by facilitating farmers' access to information to agricultural production and marketing, health and nutrition. This was achieved through Farmers' Information Services (FIS).

C. **Activities Completed:**

Training: Two personnel from CDFU in a four-day workshop organized by CRS in September 2002 trained 13 selected participants from the Department of Agriculture- Gulu District, Partners organizations, CRS Uganda and farming community in Gulu District. The consultant, together with the participants, designed, developed, tested and produced six radio spots and eight radio programs, which were broadcast on three different radio stations (Radio Freedom then later radio Mega in Gulu; Radio Peace in Kitgum and Radio Lira in Lira) from late September to November 2002.

In December 2002, CRS/Uganda organized a 3-day workshop for 12 participants, out of which 8 participants were trained in the previous radio communication workshop and 4 new staff from the Department of Health and Agriculture in Gulu District. Together they designed, developed, tested and produced 8 radio spots and 8 radio programs broadcast from December 2002 to February 2003.

Another workshop was organized in March where 8 spots and 9 programs were developed and broadcast from March to April 2003.

At the end of April, CRS staff together with the District Agricultural staff and CRS implementing partners, selected 6 spots and 8 programs from the first and second radio spots and programs, which were broadcast from April to June 2003.

Radio Station Used: Four radio stations, i.e. Mega FM Radio in Gulu, Radio Lira and Radio Wa in Lira and Radio Peace in Kitgum, were contracted to broadcast farmers' information. CRS was not able to broadcast its radio program in West Nile as it was proposed. This was due to insecurity in Northern Uganda, which would not allow easy access to West Nile region, to ensure effective and efficient monitoring and evaluation of the program. Two Radio stations were used in Lira because the rebels burnt Radio Wa which was initially proposed at the beginning of the program before shifting to Radio Lira. Later, when it was repaired, CRS shifted back to it.

Programs and Spots: A total of 33 radio talk shows and 28 radio spots were developed and broadcast on the above radio stations that CRS contracted. The topics for the talks shows developed in the first phase were: El-nino, improved seeds, correct spacing, harvesting, soil and water conservation, pest and disease control measures, record keeping and market information. In the second phase the talks addressed harvest and post harvest handling/ storage, organic manure

preparation, food hygiene, planting, enterprise selection, seedbed preparation, active feeding for children and food preparation. In the third phase the talk shows developed were: Tick borne infection, Eye care, Seed Fair and Voucher, Land Preparation, Planting, General Hygiene, Zoonoses, Fisheries and Marketing.

From April to June, radio programs were chosen by the CRS extension partners and CRS staff from the three phases above and they were: Seed bed preparation, seed selection, timely planting, soil and water conservation, improve seeds, crop rotation, harvest losses, storage and marketing. These topics were presented once a week each for 30 minutes.

The radio spots developed in the first workshop were on El- Nino 1 (Definition), El-nino 2 (Consequences), improved seeds, correct spacing, soil and water conservation, and harvest losses.

While in the second phase spots developed and broadcast were addressing storage, crop rotation, marketing, food poisoning, seed selection, seed bed preparation, protein deficiency in children and eating time for lactating mothers.

In the third workshop the spots developed were: Tick borne infection, eye care, land preparation, planting, general hygiene, marketing, timely planting and crop rotation. Three spots were broadcasted a day in each radio station during prime time. The spots which ran from April to June were: seed bed preparation, seed selection, timely planting, crop rotation, marketing, harvest losses and tick borne disease.

All radio spot and talk show programs referenced USAID as the sponsoring Agency.

Table 1: Number of spots and talk show broadcasted

Location (District)	Gulu	Lira	Lira	Kitgum	
Radio Station	Mega FM	Radio Lira	Radio Wa	Radio Peace	Total
Radio spots	585	310		250	1145
Bonus for Radio spots	60	187	210	32	489
Radio Talk Show (30 minutes)	33	11	10	14	68
Bonus for Radio talk show	5	3	2	0	9
Farmers Program (1 Hour)	5	2	0	1	8
District Officials' Program (1 Hour)	4	2	0	1	7
Total	692	515	220	298	1725

D. Gifts to Farmers

To encourage farmers to listen to the farmers' program, CRS designed questions, which were answered by farmers from the Districts of Gulu, Lira and Kitgum, Apac and Pader. The answers sent to the radio stations were marked, reviewed and graded. The best farmers were given T-shirts and hoes. The T-shirts carried a message encouraging farmers to visit the nearest agricultural extension worker for advice. A total of 300 T-shirts and 150 hoes were given out to the best respondents through radio Mega Fm in Gulu, radio Lira, radio Wa in Lira and radio Peace in Kitgum. Farmers not able to read and write were asked the same questions and their answers were recorded and broadcast and those who answered well were given T-shirts and hoes as well.

E. Mid – project evaluation

The Mid- Project evaluation was done in December 2002 in Gulu, Kitgum and Lira by CRS, District Agricultural staff, CRS extension staff. The study was conducted with the following objectives: a) assess the number of farmers who have access to radio b) impact of this program on the farming community in the region c) to identify the appropriate time for the farmers to effectively listen to the program.

To achieve the above objectives, a combination of approaches were used, which included focus group discussion, administration of written questionnaires and use of answer scripts from the respondents to the questions sent to the listeners through the various radio stations. The results showed that 75.5% of the farmers listen to radio everyday and to the CRS programs/ spots. Farmers took seriously what they heard from the programs for instance they planted crops that tolerated much rain like rice, sorghum, millet and also planted sunflower and beans with anticipation that rain would continue up to late December 2002, prepared water drainage channels in their fields and homesteads, constructed strong structures and houses for both animals and human beings in order to prepare for the consequence of El-nino.

End of project evaluation

CRS, District Agricultural staff, CRS implementing partners, radio station staff and the farmers from both Gulu and Lira had a one day training workshop on methodology for survey and conducted a joint evaluation to: a) assess the number of farmers who have access to radio b) impact of this program on the farming community in the region c) to identify the appropriate time for the farmers to effectively listen to the program.

The consultants from the Communication Development Foundation Uganda designed questionnaires, which were translated to the local language, and the surveyors used a random selection method to select 140 people to interview in Gulu and 120 in Lira. They (consultants from the Communication Development Foundation Uganda) analyzed the data from the survey.

The analysis indicated that both young and old people have access to radio and they have been listening to CRS program and spots. The few who have no radios do listen from friends who have. The radio program and spots have had positive impacts on the people of Gulu, Pader, Lira, Kitgum and Apac. Almost ¾ of the population have started

applying what they have learnt from the spots and programs in their agricultural practices making them to realize profit. They have acquired new bagging materials for transportation and storage of the produce. They reported having used bio-rational such as red piper, wood ash, neem tree, to preserve their produce. They have also started marketing their produce in small marketing group in order to increase their bargaining power.

F. Financial Report

Farmer Information Services (FIS)

Code	Description	Inception Actual (ush)
6003	Salaries –HQ & Intl Staff	263,918
6005	Other Payroll	5,262,000
6019	Other Fringe Benefits	76,538
6052	Salaries – Local	5,170,071
6063	Providence/ Pension Plan Exp.	707,676
6065	Social Security – Employer-L	551,338
6069	Other Fringe Benefits – LS	138,750
6071	Severance Expense	734,698
6106	Project material	12,636,750
6158	PH Travel & Representation	1,423,000
6204	Project & Consultant fees	12,363,110
6205	Recruitment Service Fees/Adver	12,549,000
6301	Courier Services	2,500
6303	Telephone/ Fax/Telex	2,000
6306	Office/Computer Supplies & Sta	366,900
6307	Printing	244,700
6313	Other Office Expense	1,000
6501	Transportation	398,398
6502	Hotel	1,036,339
6503	Meals, Per diem & Incidentals	815,400
6607	Training – Transportation	89,000
6608	Training – Lodging	156,000
6609	Training – Meals, Per – diem, Incid	1,106,700
6701	Gasoline & Oil Expense	640,071
6705	Maintenance & Repair – Labour	4,800
6942	Bank charges	45,000
6943	Gain/Loss – Currency Conversion	
6961	Nicra Expense	15,469,965
	Totals	72,258,622

Period Covered	Period Posted	Inception Actual
2002012	2002/012	305,122
2003001	2003/001	2,818,069
2003002	2003/002	5,474,348
2003003	2003/003	5,308,217
2003004	2003004	13,735,933
2003005	2003005	7,416,921
2003006	2003006	9,765,583
2003007	2003007	9,794,056
2003008	2003008	1,122,534
2003009	2003009	13,942,389
2003001 - 2003009	2003010- 2003011	2,575,450**
	Totals	72,258,622

****Please note that the postings made in period 10 to 11/2003 cover liquidation of prepayments and NICRA.**

Conclusion

The Farmers, District authorities and CRS implementing partners in Gulu, Lira and Kitgum appreciated the intervention, as it was the only means that farmers in turbulent and insecure areas could access agricultural information. The program became so popular in the District of Gulu, Kitgum, Lira, Pader and Apac that the Radio Mega FM in Gulu is sponsoring the “Farmers World” as it was called by farmers to continue supporting the agricultural extension service in the region as the second planting seasons is almost beginning.